REMARKS

Applicants respectfully requests further examination and reconsideration in view of the above amendments. Claims 1-30 remain pending in the case. Claims 1, 2, 4, 6-9, 11, 13-25 and 27-30 are rejected. Claims 3, 5, 10, 12, and 26 are objected to. Claims 1, 8, 15-19 and 21-23 are amended herein. Claims 2, 3, 9, 10 and 24-26 are cancelled herein. No new matter has been added.

CLAIM OBJECTIONS

Claim 16 is objected to as citing "a memory request" when Claim 15 also cites the same limitation. Applicants have amended Claim 16 so as to render this objection moot and respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

Claim 17 is objected to because Examiner asserts that the language "said packet ... at the head of said queue" in Claim 17 is contradictory to "a packet which is not at the head of said queue." Applicants have amended Claims 15-17 so as to render this objection moot by distinguishing between a first packet and a second packet. As such, Applicants respectfully request that the objection to Claim 17 be withdrawn.

Claim 18 is objected to because "at said second packet processor" may be redundant and confusing. Applicants have removed the above-referenced language from Claim 18 and therefore respectfully request that the objection be withdrawn.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

In the office action mailed January 24, 2006, Examiner indicated that Claims 3, 5, 10, 12, and 26 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all

of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants thank Examiner for finding allowable subject matter in the present application. In reliance on Examiner's remarks regarding allowable subject matter, Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 so as to substantially include the limitations of dependent Claims 2 and 3; Applicants have amended independent Claim 8 so as to substantially include the limitations of dependent Claims 9 and 10; and Applicants have amended independent Claim 23 so as to substantially include the limitations of dependent Claims 24-26. As such, Applicants respectfully request allowance of Claims 1, 4-8, 11-14, 23, and 27-30.

Additionally, Applicants note that Claims 3, 10, and 26 contain similar limitations. Applicants have amended independent Claim 15 so as to add limitations in the spirit of Claims 3, 10, and 26. Applicants note that Claim 15 as originally presented contained a limitation regarding a transfer order queue (i.e., "a queue arranged by a receiving order"). Thus, independent Claim 15 has been amended to contain the limitation "said first packet processor also for sending a memory request corresponding to a packet which is not at a head of said queue to said second packet processor prior to forwarding a packet which is at said head of said queue" (new language underlined). As such, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 15-22 are also in condition for allowance since independent Claim 15 contains limitations that have been indicated as allowable subject matter.

35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-2, 4, 6, 8-9, 11, 13, and 23-25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,812,799 by Zuravleff, hereinafter

referred to as the "Zuravleff" reference. As stated above, Applicants have amended

Claims 1, 8, and 23 to include limitations that Examiner has indicated constitute

allowable subject matter. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that independent

Claims 1, 8, and 23 overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) and are thus in

condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 4

and 6 that depend from Claim 1, Claims 11 and 13 that depend from Claim 8 are also

in condition for allowance as being dependent on allowable base claims.

35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 7, 14, and 30 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being

unpatentable over Zuravleff in further view of United States Patent 5,875,466 by

Wakerly, hereinafter referred to as the "Wakerly" reference. As stated above,

Applicants have amended Claims 1, 8, and 23 to include limitations that Examiner has

indicated constitute allowable subject matter. As such, Applicants respectfully submit

that independent Claims 1, 8, and 23 overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

and are thus in condition for allowance. Therefore, Applicants respectfully submit

that Claim 7 that depends from Claim 1, Claim 14 that depends from Claim 8, and

Claim 30 that depends from Claim 23 are also in condition for allowance as being

dependent on allowable base claims.

Claims 15-20 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable

over U.S. Patent No. 6,542,507 by Khacherian, hereinafter referred to as the

"Khacherian" reference in view of Zuravleff. As stated above, Applicants note that

Claims 3, 10, and 26 contain similar limitations. Applicants have amended

independent Claim 15 so as to add limitations in the spirit of Claims 3, 10, and 26. Thus, Applicants respectfully assert that Khacherian and Zuravleff, alone or in combination, fail to teach or suggest "said first packet processor also for sending a memory request corresponding to a first packet which is not at a head of said queue to said second packet processor prior to forwarding a packet which is at said head of said queue" (emphasis added), as recited in Claim 15. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 15 overcomes the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and is thus in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 16-20 that depend from Claim 15 are also in condition for allowance as being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Claim 21 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Khacherian in view of Zuravleff in further view of U.S. Patent No. 6,584,130 by Hanaoka, hereinafter referred to as the "Hanaoka" reference. Based on the above rationale, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 15 is allowable over Khacherian and Zuravleff. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that Hanaoka does not overcome the shortcomings of Khacherian and Zuravleff. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that that Claim 15 is also allowable over Khacherian, Zuravleff, and Hanaoka, and is thus in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 21 that depends from Claim 15 is also in condition for allowance and being dependent on an allowable base claim.

Claim 22 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Khacherian in view of Zuravleff in further view of Wakerly. Based on the above

rationale, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 15 is allowable over Khacherian and Zuravleff. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that Wakerly does not overcome the shortcomings of Khacherian and Zuravleff. As such, Applicants respectfully submit that that Claim 15 is also allowable over Khacherian, Zuravleff, and Wakerly, and is thus in condition for allowance. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Claim 22 that depends from Claim 15 is also in condition for allowance and being dependent on an allowable base claim.
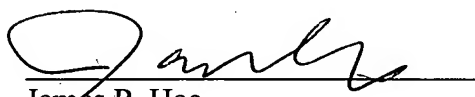
CONCLUSION

In light of the above remarks, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the rejected claims. Based on the arguments presented above, Applicants respectfully assert that Claims 1-19 overcome the rejections of record and, therefore, Applicants respectfully solicit allowance of these Claims. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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Dated: _3/30/06_

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